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Chairman: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 127: Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (*continued*)

Agenda item 128: Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (*continued*)

Draft resolutions A/C.5/55/L.15 and A/C.5/55/L.16

1. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway), introducing the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.5/55/L.15 and L.16, said that the texts had been approved unanimously during the informal consultations and should be adopted without a vote.

2. **The Chairman** said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt both draft resolutions.

3. *Draft resolutions A/C.5/55/L.15 and L.16 were adopted.*

4. **Mr. Udegbunam** (Nigeria), speaking in explanation of position, welcomed the two resolutions, which made resources available for the operation of the International Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. The Tribunals, which were among the most innovative a[illegible]ements of the United Nations in its 55-year history, had continued to make important improvements to enhance their efficiency.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Agenda item 123: Human resources management (*continued*)

Safety and security of United Nations personnel (*continued*) (A/55/494 and A/55/658)

5. **Ms. Dantoine** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, shared the concern of the Secretary-General and staff of the United Nations at the unacceptable violence perpetrated against United Nations personnel working to help those in greatest need. The European Union supported the Secretary-General's initiative to enhance the safety and security of United Nations personnel, and the Committee must agree on the most effective means of achieving the goal of protecting them from such intolerable acts.

6. It was particularly important to improve staff training, especially for staff assigned to difficult missions for the first time, so that they were better able to assess risks and manage crises. She noted with interest the efforts made in that area and in stress management by the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator and also the Secretary-General's intention to increase the resources available for training.

7. The Secretary-General's proposals for the establishment of an Assistant Secretary-General post for the Security Coordinator and of additional posts in the field were commendable, and the European Union looked forward to discussing them in informal consultations. It welcomed the observations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) concerning a plan to ensure accountability for staff members and officials of the United Nations, specialized agencies and funds and programmes for the performance or non-performance of actions in security incidents. Security measures, which fulfilled an essential function of the United Nations, must come under the regular budget in order to receive adequate funding, and the costs should be shared among the various United Nations bodies which used such services. The closest possible inter-agency coordination should be ensured in that regard.

8. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) said that, while primary responsibility for the safety of United Nations and associated personnel lay with the parties to a conflict and with host Governments, all Member States had a collective responsibility to do their utmost to protect those who courageously put their lives on the line to provide protection and assistance in areas of conflict. Her Government was one of the few that had voluntarily supported the trust fund for the security of United Nations staff. It supported the Secretary-General's proposals in his report on the safety and security of United Nations personnel (A/55/494),

including the establishment as an interim measure of a separate post for the United Nations Security Coordinator and the creation of several new posts at Headquarters and in the field.

9. While her delegation was pleased to note that the Advisory Committee supported most of the Secretary-General's proposals for staff increases at Headquarters, it had serious concerns about the recommendation to defer consideration of the proposed field posts. The Member States owed it to the staff at risk to take all necessary precautionary measures and to be as forthcoming as possible to the Secretary-General's interim proposals.

10. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal), noting the empathy with which the United Nations Security Coordinator had championed the cause of ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel, said that the issue was fundamental to enabling the United Nations to promote peace and development effectively and to render humanitarian services. Appropriate measures must therefore be taken as a matter of urgency to secure the life and integrity of United Nations staff so that they could discharge their responsibilities.

11. The current security system, as depicted by the Secretary-General in his report, was cumbersome and completely inadequate, and was handicapped, inter alia, by lack of assignment flexibility and limited mobility. More specialized training, more communications equipment and increased access to expert advice and leadership from professional security officers could significantly alleviate the atmosphere of insecurity in dangerous situations. In the final analysis, building staff confidence would build the Organization's own confidence in championing its cause in the field.

12. The question of the security of United Nations personnel was very important to Nepal, some 40 of whose citizens had been killed in the line of duty in various United Nations peacekeeping missions. While there was an urgent need to begin improving the security system, his delegation believed that a piecemeal approach and ad hoc arrangements ultimately did more harm than good. It also believed that, while the profile of the United Nations Security Coordinator was crucial, especially in times of crisis, the Coordinator's Office could, for the reasons cited by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, be placed under the office of an existing Assistant Secretary-General.

13. His delegation supported the arrangements for cost-sharing among the organizations that used United Nations security management services. Better system-wide coordination should be ensured both in the management of funds and in actions in the field. Lastly, the United Nations must take care to ensure that the security system did not encourage "protectors" to turn into "violators" of the safety, security and dignity of those whom they were supposed to be protecting. Proper training would be extremely useful in that respect.

14. **Mr. Mohammed** (Iraq), referring to an incident that had taken place in Baghdad and which had been mentioned the previous day by the United Nations Security Coordinator, said that the competent authorities had taken all necessary legal measures to protect United Nations staff working in Iraq. An investigation into the incident in question was under way.

15. **Mr. Kendall** (Argentina) said that his country, which was one of the main troop contributors and the driving force behind the "White Helmets" initiative, was deeply involved in efforts to improve the protection of United Nations and associated staff. Since primary responsibility for the security and protection of United Nations personnel lay with host Governments, his delegation called upon all States to ensure that any act or threat of violence against United Nations staff committed in their territory was duly investigated and prosecuted.

16. Such measures were not enough, however. The United Nations had taken on new, more hazardous challenges in recent years. The increase in the number of attacks on United Nations staff was a fact. The hostage crisis in Sierra Leone, in which hundreds of peacekeepers had been captured, demonstrated the complexity of the emergencies which the United Nations had to face.

17. The current security management system must be equipped to deal with the new circumstances. Obviously, a small office with limited staff could not tackle such crises properly. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that the system must be strengthened both at Headquarters and in the field. It had pledged to give due consideration to the proposals for establishing a stable financial structure to ensure

staff security and agreed on the need to adopt the interim security measures suggested by the Secretary-General in his report as soon as possible. As the report stated, the security training programmes currently financed from the trust fund for the security of United Nations personnel must not be discontinued. His delegation pledged to contribute to the fund and urged other States to do likewise.

18. **Mr. Orr** (Canada), speaking on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, expressed strong support for the Secretary-General's efforts to improve the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel. As civilians became increasingly targeted in conflicts, it was not surprising that those who provided them with protection and assistance also came increasingly under attack. Regrettably, working under a United Nations flag no longer guaranteed protection. Some 198 United Nations civilian staff had been killed since 1992, 25 of them in 2000 alone.

19. The General Assembly had expressed profound concern about security incidents, but more needed to be done to protect personnel working in difficult environments. They must be given the proper training and provided with enhanced security resources. Assaults and physical violence must be investigated and those responsible must be prosecuted.

20. The Secretary-General's recommendation to establish eight posts at Headquarters under the regular budget to strengthen the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator deserved support. In view of the Advisory Committee's concerns regarding the proposal for additional field staff, further clarification should be provided as soon as possible. The delegations of Australia, Canada and New Zealand strongly supported the Advisory Committee's proposal to upgrade the post of the Deputy Security Coordinator. They requested the Secretary-General to provide a further detailed report on the issues identified by the Advisory Committee as soon as possible. Lastly, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes that benefited from the work of the Security Coordinator's Office had a responsibility to cooperate in that work and to share the costs.

21. **Mr. Udegbunam** (Nigeria) said that, as a regular troop contributor, his country supported any proposal that would help to reduce the incidence of attacks on United Nations personnel. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that there was an urgent need to do everything possible to ensure the safety and security of such personnel.

22. **Mr. Dugan** (United States of America) said that the safety and security of United Nations personnel urgently required serious, action-oriented consideration by the General Assembly. The Charter of the United Nations called upon staff to perform very diverse tasks, many of which had recently become fatal. If the United Nations intended to pursue its mandates, it had a duty to care for its personnel.

23. The proposals put forward by the Secretary-General were sorely overdue and Member States now had the formal opportunity to take action. The first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/55/645) showed that implementation of the proposals would not require additional appropriations under the 2000-2001 budget. His delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's longer-term proposals to strengthen the Security Coordinator's Office during the 2002-2003 biennium. It agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning cost-sharing arrangements for the security programme.

24. His delegation supported the proposal to establish an Assistant Secretary-General post for the Security Coordinator. The job required a security professional with a strong reputation for performance, broad technical capabilities and the ability to speak authoritatively on behalf of the Secretary-General to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and host country security elements in the field. He disagreed with the Advisory Committee's view that those important functions could be carried out on a part-time basis by an official responsible for other functions as well. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) might usefully be involved in implementing the Secretary-General's proposals.

25. A draft resolution on safety of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel was to be considered shortly in the plenary Assembly. It made a strong case for the adoption of effective measures and provided a basis for moving from words to action.

26. **Mr. Sevan** (United Nations Security Coordinator) noted that many delegations had expressed support for the proposed security measures. Unfortunately, unless the United Nations was prepared to provide resources

commensurate with the task at hand, that support might prove ephemeral.

27. It would be regrettable if the United Nations made the immediate, urgent financing of security improvements conditional upon the finalization of cost-sharing arrangements, especially since the membership of the United Nations and the membership of the various specialized agencies, funds and programmes were nearly identical. The Secretary-General would indeed bring his proposals to the attention of ACC, which was following the issue closely. Nevertheless, action must be taken at the current session if there was to be any hope of maintaining coherence and discipline in the security area.

28. There was a need for staff not only at Headquarters but also in the field. As for the Advisory Committee's assertion that the functions of the Security Coordinator did not require the establishment of a separate Assistant Secretary-General post, he personally had found it impossible to devote the necessary time and effort to his mandate as Security Coordinator while performing other functions as well.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Agenda item 153: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (*continued*) (A/55/305-S/2000/809, A/55/502, A/55/507 and Add.1 and A/55/676; A/C.4/55/6)

29. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the Advisory Committee's report (A/55/676) on the Secretary-General's interim proposals, which had been submitted on an emergency basis, for implementing the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. Those proposals would require an additional $7.5 million and 35 new posts under the regular budget and an additional $14.7 million and 214 new posts under the support account. The Advisory Committee had not finalized its report until after the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee had issued their conclusions and recommendations.

30. In reviewing the Secretary-General's proposals, the Advisory Committee had taken into account the fact that a number of reviews and studies on the follow-up to the Panel's recommendations would become available in 2001 and 2002. The results of those reviews and studies would clarify what was required to implement the Panel's recommendations. Moreover, although the Secretary-General had described his proposals as an emergency request, their urgency in terms of operational necessity had not been fully demonstrated in all cases. Lastly, the Advisory Committee had taken into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

31. The Advisory Committee had not commented on many of the Panel's recommendations, such as those concerning the relationship between the regular budget and the support account and the role of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Management in matters such as procurement and budget presentation, because it was awaiting the results of the reports referred to in paragraphs 4 and 8 of its report. In recent years, subjects that were best dealt with in the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee had sometimes been taken up in other intergovernmental bodies; in that connection, he drew attention to paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Advisory Committee's report.

32. The Advisory Committee's conclusions and recommendations were summarized in paragraphs 91 and 92 of its report. It had not determined in advance how many staffing proposals to recommend or defer; rather, it had examined each proposed post in the light of the justification provided by Secretariat reports and officials, and taking into account the factors outlined in its report. It had made recommendations under each budget section and departmental unit concerned and had tried to give reasons for its recommendation on each proposed post. In total, it had recommended the approval of 95 posts and the deferral of decisions on 117 posts, and had not recommended the approval of four posts. While the Advisory Committee's recommendations undoubtedly would not please all delegations in the Fifth Committee, which held widely varying views on the number of posts that should be approved, those recommendations had been based on a detailed review of the Secretary-General's proposals.

33. **Mr. Elgammal** (Egypt), speaking on a point of order, asked whether documents A/55/507 and

A/55/507/Add.1 had been formally introduced before the Committee.

34. **Mr. Acakpo-Satchivi** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretary-General's presentation of those reports at the Committee's 32nd meeting had constituted the formal introduction of the reports before the Committee.

35. **Mr. Elgammal** (Egypt) said that, in future, when the Secretary-General's statements before the Committee included the introduction of reports, the Committee's programme of work should so indicate.

36. **Mr. Lamek** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, recalled that the European Union had already expressed its views on the Panel's report at the Committee's 32nd meeting, when the Secretary-General had presented his emergency request, and at the meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

37. Little time remained in which to fulfil the mandate concerning the strengthening of United Nations peacekeeping which the Heads of State and Government of the Member States had included in their Millennium Declaration. Some of the Secretary-General's proposals on which the Advisory Committee had not yet made recommendations should have been implemented immediately. However, at the very least, the Committee should promptly endorse the recommendations made thus far by the Advisory Committee, since they represented a good compromise among the positions of the various delegations and reflected the compromise reached in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

38. **Ms. Johnson** (Canada), speaking on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, said that those delegations had reviewed the Secretary-General's request for emergency resources in the light of the Advisory Committee's expert recommendations and the Special Committee's views on the subject. Some of the 95 posts which the Advisory Committee had recommended for approval were in the Office of Operations, the Office of Logistics, Management and Mine Action and the Office of Military and Civilian Police Affairs. Those posts would help to strengthen key areas within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. She was also pleased that the Advisory Committee had recommended the approval of two additional posts in the Electoral Assistance Division. However, she would have welcomed the endorsement of more of the Secretary-General's staffing requests by the Advisory Committee. Should the Fifth Committee approve the posts requested, the Secretariat should fill them expeditiously, with due regard to the maintenance of the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and to the recruitment of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

39. She noted that the Advisory Committee had deferred its consideration of some 150 regular budget and support account posts in areas such as the proposed Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security and the budget sections concerning disarmament, human rights, humanitarian assistance and public information. The next phase in the implementation of the Panel's report should take place in the context of the comprehensive review referred to in the Secretary-General's report (A/55/502, para. 121), which she strongly supported. In that connection, she noted that the Advisory Committee had not recommended the approval of three posts for the establishment of a Gender Unit within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (A/55/676, para. 44). While she agreed on the need for better coordination and collaboration between that Department and existing Secretariat structures dealing with gender issues, she hoped that the proposal would be reconsidered in the context of the comprehensive review.

40. **Mr. Udegbunam** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that those countries attached great importance to the provision of adequate resources to all peacekeeping activities. Since intensive and lengthy discussions on the Panel's report had already taken place in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Fifth Committee should not reopen the issues dealt with in that forum.

41. The Group of 77 and China reaffirmed rule 153 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure and requested the Secretary-General to abide by it strictly in presenting his proposals. In the current case, documents A/55/507 and A/55/507/Add.1 should have been prepared in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee and then submitted to the Advisory Committee. The exceptional procedure followed made the financial implications

submitted by the Secretary-General difficult to understand.

42. He noted the Advisory Committee's observation that the conversion of support account posts to the regular budget, which the Panel had recommended, would be addressed in the context of the comprehensive review to be undertaken over the next six months. That review should be completed and submitted to the Special Committee as soon as possible. He shared the Advisory Committee's view that not all the Secretary-General's proposals could be classified as emergencies, the postponement of which would lead to an immediate deterioration of current peacekeeping operations (A/55/676, para. 11). The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should not be significantly revamped until the comprehensive review had been completed. He agreed with the Advisory Committee that the potential for duplication of work between political officers in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs should be eliminated.

43. He noted that the Advisory Committee had recommended the approval of 93 additional posts under the support account, whereas, in May 2000, the General Assembly had approved a total of 469 posts for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. He was concerned to note that the amount owed to troop-contributing countries had crossed the $1 billion mark in August 2000, and regretted that the Panel's report had not addressed that important issue. No new request for resources should be submitted to the Fifth Committee until after the comprehensive review had been carried out and commented upon by all relevant bodies. He agreed with the Special Committee that troop-contributing countries should be properly represented in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to reflect their contribution to United Nations peacekeeping.

The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 5.40 p.m.

44. *Mr. Kelapile (Botswana), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

45. **Mr. Kuchinsky** (Ukraine) recalled that, in the Millennium Declaration and in Security Council resolution 1318 (2000), the Heads of State and Government of the Member States had resolved to make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the necessary resources. He therefore welcomed the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, which set a comprehensive, long-term agenda for the reform of peacekeeping activities. Since 1992, Ukraine had contributed troops and equipment to 20 peacekeeping operations and Ukrainian nationals currently participated in six operations.

46. The initial financial impact of the Secretary-General's proposals for implementing the Panel's recommendations was relatively modest in comparison to the overall level of the programme budget for the biennium and the volume of peacekeeping financing for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. The Secretary-General's proposals focused primarily on addressing critical backstopping needs by increasing staffing levels at Headquarters. Ukraine looked forward to the results of the comprehensive review requested by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which would enable the Advisory Committee to revert to the consideration of the staffing proposals which it had deferred.

47. The Fifth Committee had a major role to play in the gradual implementation of the Panel's recommendations which had a wide impact on the administrative and financial functioning of the Secretariat in the area of peacekeeping support, including capacity-building for the rapid deployment of missions. Currently, delays were experienced in setting up new missions because of a lack of resources and equipment and of sufficient personnel for logistical planning. The Secretary-General's next report on the Panel's recommendations should contain specific proposals for improving staffing and procurement arrangements to meet the Organization's peacekeeping demands. The Fifth Committee should approve the Advisory Committee's recommendations expeditiously so as to provide a basis for the practical implementation of the Panel's recommendations.

48. **Mr. Albrecht** (South Africa) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

49. The report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809) reflected the various interests of Member States in a well-balanced manner, while the Advisory Committee's report on the implementation of the Panel's report (A/55/676) correctly identified the areas most urgently in need of resources. He urged the Fifth Committee to adopt the

Advisory Committee's recommendations in order to fulfil the pledge, made by the Heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit, to make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security.

50. As the representative of an African country, he wished to stress that the United Nations must be able to respond to the problems and challenges faced by Africa. A strengthened Department of Peacekeeping Operations would help to restore United Nations credibility in that regard.

51. The problems besetting the United Nations were related not only to lack of staff but also to resource management, inter-agency coordination and a host of other issues. His delegation therefore eagerly awaited the comprehensive review called for by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and hoped that organizations of the South would be involved in that process in order to ensure a balanced perspective. His delegation urged the Secretariat to ensure that new personnel were recruited with due regard for equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and countries' contributions to peacekeeping operations. No amount of structural reforms or additional resources could be a substitute for political commitment, however; the countries with the greatest means and capacity must back their vocal support for reform with active involvement in peacekeeping operations.

52. His delegation called on Member States to show the necessary commitment to addressing the twin challenges of development and peace in an equitable manner. It understood the concerns raised by some countries in connection with the Panel's report and agreed that the decline in official development assistance (ODA) was cause for alarm. However, it was the absence of peace and stability which had made it more difficult to eradicate poverty and disease. His delegation hoped that an agreement on the Panel's report would help lay the foundation for a better life in the developing world.

53. **Mr. Elgammal** (Egypt) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

54. His delegation had already outlined its position on the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. With regard to the report of the Advisory Committee (A/55/676), he agreed with the statement made in paragraph 3 concerning the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and hoped that those requirements would be observed in future.

55. It was important to act on the Panel's recommendations concerning the reorganization of specific structures such as the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. At the same time, his delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that not all the Secretary-General's proposals could be classified as emergencies.

56. Since the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had made no mention of direct support for the Department of Political Affairs, he would welcome an explanation as to why the Advisory Committee was recommending acceptance of the 12 posts referred to in paragraph 49 of its report. He agreed with the Advisory Committee that there was no need to establish a Gender Unit. It was also important to avoid duplicating the functions performed by the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

57. The Fifth Committee had already discussed the proposal to establish a post at the D-2 level for the Director of the Europe and Latin America Division. His delegation agreed that the proposal should be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

58. **Mr. Effah-Apenteng** (Ghana) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

59. Ghana was one of the oldest, largest and most consistent contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations and was currently involved in nine such operations. His delegation recognized that speedy implementation of the Panel's report was essential for fulfilling the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration. At the same time, it realized that more thorough analysis was needed to ensure that the report was implemented effectively.

60. His delegation understood, but did not share, the concern that implementation of the Panel's recommendations would promote peacekeeping at the expense of development and it accepted the Secretary-General's assurances in that regard (A/55/502, para. 7 (h)). At approximately US$ 2 billion, the entire peacekeeping budget was only a fraction of the US$ 51 billion raised annually from bilateral and multilateral

development assistance sources. Member States must not allow their frustration with other areas of United Nations activity to affect the implementation of the Panel's report, which would do much to improve the image of the Organization. The international community assessed United Nations effectiveness on the basis of its peacekeeping operations; moreover, it was difficult, if not impossible, to pursue sustained and sustainable development in the absence of peace and security.

61. Given the exponential growth in peacekeeping operations in recent years, it was unrealistic for Member States to expect the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to perform better without an increase in human resources. He was concerned that the Advisory Committee did not consider it urgent to ensure a properly functioning lessons learned unit. As presently constituted, the Policy Analysis and Lessons Learned Unit lacked reliable funding and proper supervision. The proposed new unit would be brought under the support account and located in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who had given assurances that he would monitor and supervise its work closely. His delegation therefore regretted the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the proposal be resubmitted under the proposals for the support account for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002; it was his delegation's expectation that the request would be given favourable consideration at that time.

62. His delegation supported the Security Council's recognition of the need to improve the Secretariat's information-gathering and analysis capacity and therefore the proposal to establish an Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security. However, it accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should defer a decision in that regard and that, in the meantime, the Secretariat should continue to provide the required information and analysis using the existing structures and resources.

63. He hoped that in seeking to fill the limited number of posts recommended by the Advisory Committee, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would recruit more technical staff, including administrators and military, police, human rights and legal experts, from developing countries, which was, after all, where most peacekeeping operations took place. Such an approach would not only be in keeping with the letter and the spirit of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations but also restore confidence in the United Nations and address Member States' concerns about lack of transparency and imbalance in the recruitment of personnel. In particular, troop-contributing countries should be properly represented in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The principles of transparency and equitable geographical distribution should also be observed in filling the proposed additional posts in the Electoral Assistance Division. His delegation did not subscribe to the view that electoral expertise could not be found in the developing world.

64. In view of the limited staff of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the key role played by military and civilian Planning Division, his delegation regretted the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the consideration of resources related to the possible establishment of a new Office of Military and Civilian Police Affairs, to be headed by an Assistant Secretary-General, should be deferred. It also requested that the Advisory Committee reconsider its opposition to the Panel's recommendation for the establishment of a Gender Unit in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Ghana attached importance to the mainstreaming of gender sensitivity in public activity and hoped that women from developing countries would be given an equal opportunity to fill posts in the proposed Unit. Lastly, his delegation urged the Committee not to lose sight of the purpose of the Panel's recommendations, which was to enable the United Nations to deal efficiently and effectively with challenges to its cardinal functions of maintaining international peace and security and, by extension, development.

65. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) said that, in the interests of both peace and development, Member States should work constructively to implement the Panel's recommendations. Active follow-up of those recommendations was necessary in order to strengthen the ability of the United Nations to plan and conduct peace operations. Moreover, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building were mutually reinforcing activities. Her delegation therefore supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations as a necessary first step.

66. **Mr. Lozinski** (Russian Federation) said that the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations demonstrated the unique role of the United Nations in resolving and preventing conflicts and had been a major intellectual input to the Millennium Summit. Most of the report's recommendations were based on the collective experience of recent peacekeeping efforts and would objectively build the capacity of the United Nations in the coming century. Because many of the report's recommendations required urgent action, the corresponding reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee warranted detailed consideration. A number of the ideas put forward in the Panel's report and developed in the Secretary-General's report were all too obvious and could have been put into practice long ago, especially since similar ideas had often been put forward in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Advisory Committee. That was the case, for instance, with such ideas as the establishment of Integrated Mission Task Forces, the creation of a roster of civilian and military personnel and the introduction of focal points for the various organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. Such proposals should not prove controversial and the Secretariat should take practical steps to implement them.

67. The main focus of the Panel's report was the immediate solution of operational problems related to the needs of newly launched or expanded missions. The emphasis in the Secretary-General's report, on the other hand, was on building the analytical and information-related capacities of the United Nations in support of peace. His delegation trusted that the Secretary-General would deal with operational issues when he came to submit comprehensive proposals as part of the next stage of the consideration of the Panel's report, and it looked forward to the submission of such proposals in the first half of 2001.

68. The Secretary-General had proposed building the strategic planning capacity of the United Nations by setting up an Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat. His delegation considered it to be of the utmost importance to strengthen the Organization's capacity in that area by increasing the level of coordination with other organizations of the United Nations system actively involved in peacekeeping operations and by integrating a number of functions within the Secretariat itself. It was important to look at the problem from all angles in order to find the most effective solution, but that would require extra time and effort. His delegation therefore agreed with the Special Committee and the Advisory Committee that the problem should be addressed the following year, once additional information and proposals had been prepared by the Secretariat.

69. Given the growth in the number and scale of peacekeeping operations and the related financial challenges and operational complexities of a number of operations, it was valid to raise the issue of earmarking additional resources. It was in that context that his delegation had considered the report of the Advisory Committee and the recommendations made therein. The Advisory Committee's proposals concerning emergency needs, particularly its recommendations on additional human and financial resources for logistics, military planning and police were balanced and fair. On the question of the proposed new Assistant Secretary-General post and the proposed reclassification of the post of the Civilian Police Adviser, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, his delegation supported the Advisory Committee's position that those issues would be best addressed in the context of the comprehensive review of the structure of the Department.

70. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

71. It had been his understanding that the Secretary-General's presentation of documents A/55/507 and Add.1 had been made under rule 112 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which stipulated that the Secretary-General, or a member of the Secretariat designated by him as his representative, might at any time make either oral or written statements to any committee or subcommittee concerning any question under consideration by it. In that case, however, the Secretariat had failed to comply with rule 153 of the rules of procedure, as noted in paragraph 3 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/55/676). He hoped that in future, care would be taken to abide by all the rules of procedure, particularly, rule 153. It was also important that the Fifth Committee should confine its consideration of the issue to its own mandate, without infringing on that of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

72. He was concerned at the statement in paragraph 11 of the Advisory Committee's report that, although the Secretary-General had described the estimates

made in his reports as an emergency request, upon questioning, his representatives had acknowledged that not all the proposals in the related resource documents could be classified as emergencies. He would like the Secretariat to clarify that issue.

73. There was a general consensus on the need to strengthen peacekeeping operations, eliminate all causes of conflict and create a climate in which all peoples could enjoy peace and prosperity. However, the Millennium Declaration had stressed the importance of development as well as peace. Despite the Secretary-General's assurances that the recommendations in the Panel's report would not be implemented at the expense of development, his delegation regretted that the Secretary-General had not launched an equally comprehensive new initiative on world development.

74. **Mr. Alatrash** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his country's commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law predisposed it to support the Secretary-General's peacekeeping-related endeavours. His Government had played an active role in reconciliation efforts among countries, with a view to strengthening peace and security, especially in Africa. Libyan troops continued to take part in peacekeeping missions and the Government had paid its contribution to the peacekeeping budget.

75. The report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809) contained many excellent ideas and recommendations for the strengthening of peacekeeping operations, which would enable the United Nations to respond rapidly and effectively and to cooperate with countries involved in such operations.

76. His delegation supported the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee concerning resource requirements. With regard to personnel recruitment, he hoped that the Secretariat would observe the principle of equitable geographical distribution. All peacekeeping missions must be treated equally, with no discrimination in respect of financial arrangements.

77. Any delay in peacekeeping operations could have serious consequences for lives and property. It was therefore incumbent upon the Fifth Committee to respond rapidly and objectively to the requirements of United Nations peace operations, so as to enable the Secretary-General fully to discharge his responsibilities, in keeping with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

78. His delegation welcomed any proposals that would strengthen the role of the United Nations in peace operations throughout the world and that would bring economic and social development to all parts of the globe.

79. **Mr. Hume** (United States of America) said that peacekeeping reform required not only additional resources, but also a commitment by the Security Council to change the way in which it formulated mandates and the development of a stronger, more meaningful approach to consultations and briefings for troop-contributing countries. Nevertheless, improving the senior management oversight structure and operational capacity of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would provide urgently needed support for operations in the field and would help to address the concerns of Member States, particularly troop contributors, which had rightly demanded closer consultation with senior Department officials, an expanded role in Headquarters decision-making and greater responsiveness from the top tier of the Department's leadership.

80. When tragedy struck, Member States should not have to wait while overworked personnel searched for the names of the wounded, senior government officials should not be confronted with conflicting reports from the field and Permanent Representatives should not be kept in the dark as new information came to light. In that regard, he endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China concerning the importance of proper representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, including at senior levels.

81. There was unanimous support for strengthening and restructuring the Department's military and civilian police capacity under the guiding hand of an experienced and qualified senior official whose responsibility lay exclusively in that area. While the Military Adviser must continue to have direct access to the Secretary-General and to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, strong leadership would significantly enhance the role and effectiveness of both the Military Adviser and the Civilian Police Adviser and would strengthen dialogue among the

Secretariat, the Security Council and troop contributors.

82. The Department's senior officials were responsible and accountable for peacekeeping operations across the globe, which, at a cost of over US$ 2.5 billion, affected the lives of millions of the most vulnerable individuals. Those officials took decisions that directly affected the security and safety of United Nations troops, civilian police and personnel. They must therefore be responsive to the needs and queries of Member States, provide advice and operational guidance to the Secretary-General and give extensive, high-quality briefings to the Security Council and troop-contributing countries. Accordingly, he endorsed the Secretary-General's request for the establishment of a new Assistant Secretary-General post in the area of peacekeeping operations.

83. Peacekeeping would be condemned to failure if Member States continued to expect 400 staff, including only 32 military and 9 civilian police experts, to support 58,000 men and women in the field and to manage 15 peacekeeping operations. His delegation supported the call for a comprehensive review of human and financial resource needs and was pleased that the Secretary-General had begun that process. It also welcomed the report of the Advisory Committee, which contained instructive, responsible recommendations on justified and properly substantiated emergency needs. While it was convinced of the need for a Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Unit, improved public information capacity, Peacekeeping Doctrine and Best Practices Unit and an Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security, his delegation was willing to defer consideration of the relevant proposals. At a minimum, however, emergency resources for military and civilian police, operations and logistics, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, must be approved by the end of the current year.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.